

Claims

1. A mobile communication device comprising-

- a set of keys organized as a keyboard, said set of keys each having a first assigned function for entering alphanumeric text;
- wherein at least a subset of keys included in said set of keys is arranged in a predetermined configuration, said subset of keys each having a second assigned function for entering alphanumeric text; and
- a plurality of applications executable on said mobile communication device;

5 characterized in that

- a portion of said keys comprises a first selection of keys of said subset of keys for entering numbers and telephone number related symbols and comprises a second selection of keys of said set of keys for entering control letters, said control letters having a control function in relationship with the entering of telephone numbers;
- at least one of said plurality of applications is adapted to switch a keyboard operation mode into a first mode and into a second mode;
- said set of keys and said at least one subset of keys included in said set of keys are operable with said keyboard operation mode being in said first mode; and
- said portion of keys is operable with said keyboard operation mode being in said second mode.

15 2. A mobile communication device according to claim 1, comprising:

- a mode selecting key for switching an input mode into a first mode and into a second mode, said mode selecting key being operable to change modes in at least one of said plurality of applications; and

25 characterized in that in case said keyboard operation mode is in said first mode:

- said set of keys each having a first assigned function is operable with said input mode being in said first mode; and
- said subset of keys each having a second assigned function is operable with said input mode being in said second mode.

30 3. A mobile communication device according to claim 2, characterized by:

- a keyboard controller adapted to receive signals from said keyboard and signals from said mode selecting key, and adapted to generate commands in accordance with said received signals and able to transmit said commands to at least one of said plurality of applications;
- a first set of commands is provided operable with said input mode being in said first

mode and said keyboard operation mode being in said first mode, said first set of commands representing said first assigned function of said set of keys; and

- a second set of commands is provided operable with said input mode being in said second mode and said keyboard operation mode being in said first mode, said second set of commands representing said first assigned function of said set of keys.

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4. A mobile communication device according to claim 3, characterized in that in case said keyboard operation mode is in said second mode:

- a third set of commands is provided, said third set of commands representing said second assigned functions of said first selection of keys and representing said first assigned functions of said second selection of keys.

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5. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said second assigned function of said subset of keys comprises at least numbers 0 to 9 and symbols "+", "#" and "*" for entering alphanumeric characters.

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6. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said second assigned function of said first selection of keys comprises at least numbers 0 to 9 and symbols "+", "#" and "*" for entering a telephone number for entering telephone numbers.

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7. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said control letters comprise a letter "P" for entering a pause control function and a letter "W" for entering a wait control function, wherein said control functions are entered in combination with telephone numbers.

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8. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said keyboard is substantially arranged as a QWERTY keyboard.

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9. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said keyboard comprising said plurality of keys is arranged in stacked rows.

10. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said keyboard comprises a row including at least two space keys and two shift keys arranged symmetrically.

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11. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims,

wherein said keyboard comprises a row including two mode selecting keys arranged symmetrically.

12. Mobile communication device according to according to anyone of the preceding claims,
5 characterized in that said at least a variety of keys of said portion of keys are shaped different from remaining keys of said keyboard.
13. Mobile communication device according to according to anyone of the preceding claims,
10 characterized in that at least a variety of keys of said portion of keys are colored different from remaining keys of said keyboard.
14. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterized by:
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 - a keyboard detector;
 - wherein said keyboard is detachably connected to said mobile communication device and has a keyboard identification component; and
 - said keyboard identification component is adapted to at least said first and second assigned functions of said keys of said keyboard.
15. Mobile communication device according to claim 14, characterized in that said detachably connected keyboard is included in a cover being at least a part of a housing of said mobile communication device, wherein said cover is detachably connected to said mobile communication device.
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16. Mobile communication device according to claim 14 or claim 15, characterized in that said keyboard identification component is a resistor having a certain pre-determined characteristic.
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17. Mobile communication device according to anyone of the claims 14 to 16, characterized in that said detachably connected keyboard is adapted to right handed use or left handed use.
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18. Method for controlling an operation of a keyboard of a mobile communication device, characterized by:
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 - receiving a keyboard operation mode signal from at least one of a plurality of applications executable on the mobile communication device;
 - switching a keyboard operation mode into a first mode and into a second mode in accordance with said received keyboard operation mode signal;

in case said keyboard operation mode is in said first mode:

- receiving an input mode signal;
- switching an input mode into a first mode and into a second mode in accordance with said received input mode signal;
- receiving an input signal;
- 5 - generating a command from said received input signal in combination with said input mode, said command being one of a plurality of commands including a first set of commands generated in said input mode being in said first mode and a second set of commands generated in said input mode being in said second mode, said first set of commands represents said first assigned functions of said set of keys, said second set of commands represents said second assigned functions of said subset of keys; and
- 10 - transmitting said generated command to at least one of said plurality of applications in case said keyboard operation mode is in said second mode:
 - receiving an input signal;
 - generating a command from said received input signal, said command being one out of third set of commands; said third set of commands represents said second assigned functions of said first selection of keys and said first assigned functions of said second selection of keys; and
 - 15 - transmitting said generated command to at least one of said plurality of applications.